

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

## Agenda Number:

**Prepared on:** 4/1/05  
**Department:** District Attorney  
**Budget Unit:** 021  
**Agenda Date:** 5/03/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Thomas W. Sneddon, Jr.  
District Attorney

**STAFF CONTACT:** Marnie B. Pinsker  
District Attorney Assistant Director, x2304

**SUBJECT:** Resolutions for Renewal of Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board  
Contract for Victim Claims Verification Services and Continuation of Specialized Financial Payments to Victims.

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## Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board for two year continuation of victim claims verification services though June 2007; and
- b) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to execute an Agreement with the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCB ) to sustain expedited payment of funeral/burial expenses, crime scene clean-up and emergency domestic violence and sexual assault relocation expenses.

## Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with actions required by law or by routine business necessity.

## Executive Summary and Discussion:

Since FY 87-88, the District Attorney has contracted with the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board to verify claims for victims of crime to obtain reimbursement for losses suffered as a result of a serious crime. Victims Compensation Claims Specialists, housed in the North and South County offices, determine whether applicants meet State eligibility requirements for the Victims of Crime Program and then

verify that the claims filed include all necessary documentation regarding the crime and the services provided. The Claims Specialists also recommend award levels directly to the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, expediting the process for payment of victim claims. In the year 2004 a total of 760 victim claims were verified and submitted, returning \$527,000 in reimbursement to victims, hospitals, counselors and other providers.

Effective January 1999, the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board established an agreement with Santa Barbara County which enabled the District Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance Program to provide immediate payment of a victim's funeral/burial expense through a County Trust Account. This has alleviated the family's financial stress often created by the sudden death of a relative, when providers are unable to wait for payment of a victim's bills until Victim Compensation Program reimbursement claims are paid. Effective July 2000 the Victim Compensation Program expanded this effort to provide domestic violence victims with emergency funds for relocation expenses, consistent with passage of AB 606. With the passage of AB 1019 effective January 2002, the County was given additional authority to reimburse eligible crime victims for crime scene clean up and emergency relocation expenses emanating from a sexual assault.

Through this agreement, the Victim Witness Assistance Program Claims Staff process eligible claims and authorize immediate payment of approved Victim's Funeral and Burial expenses, Crime Scene Clean Up, Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault Relocation expenses from the local Trust Account directly to the service provider and/or the victim. Victims of Crime Compensation Claims staff process claims with VCP to replenish the revolving Trust Account. Claims are evaluated per Statutes and Regulations and claims do not exceed the amounts authorized in State Statute.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

The current service level is retained.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The FY 05-06 agreement totals \$201,827 to fully reimburse program expenditures, providing \$164,962 annually to finance two Claims Specialists and .6 clerical support, along with \$36,865 in operating costs and overhead related to the Victim Compensation Claims Verification Program. Program expenses and revenue have been budgeted in the FY 05-06 budget. This amount will also be included in the FY 2006-07 budget.

VCP has allocated \$50,000 to Santa Barbara County, deposited in a Trust Account to finance immediate payment of verified claims. Funeral/burial expenses are limited to \$7,500 per claim, \$1,000 for crime scene clean up, while a maximum of \$2,000 may be utilized for domestic violence or sexual assault victim relocation costs. All trust account claims for expedited victim expenses are reimbursed by the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Program.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return a certified copy of the resolution to Marnie Pinsker, x2304.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING A JOINT POWERS)
AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE VICTIM ) RESOLUTION NO. 2005-
COMPENSATION AND GOVERNMENT CLAIMS )
BOARD FOR VVC CLAIMS VERIFICATION )

WHEREAS, Government Code 13959 et seq. authorizes the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board to provide compensation to victims of crime for the financial losses they experience as victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has designated the District Attorney's Victim Witness Program a provider of major and comprehensive victim and witness services in Santa Barbara County; and,

WHEREAS, the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board is authorized to contract with the local Victim Witness Program to provide claims verification services; and,

WHEREAS, the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board has allocated \$403,654 (\$201,827 x 2 fiscal years) for FY 2005-06 through FY 2006-07 to provide this specific task; and,

WHEREAS, the District Attorney's Office has the desire and capability to continue providing claims verification services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District Attorney is authorized, on its behalf, to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board to provide claims verification services, effective July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2007 and is further authorized to sign for the purposes of making any extension or amendment thereof;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State funds received hereunder shall not be used to supplant local funds that would, in the absence of the California Victim Witness Assistance Program, be made available to support assistance to the victims of crime.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005, by the following votes:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_
Chair, Board of Supervisors

\_\_\_\_\_
Approved as to form
Auditor-Controller

\_\_\_\_\_
Approved as to form
County Counsel

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS By: \_\_\_\_\_
Deputy

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE )  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO CONTRACT ) RESOLUTION NO. 2005-  
WITH THE STATE VICTIM COMPENSATION )  
& GOVERNMENT CLAIMS BOARD )

WHEREAS, Government Code 13959 et seq. authorizes the State Victim Compensation & Government Claims Board to provide compensation to victims of crime for the financial losses they experience as victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has designated the District Attorney's Victim Witness Program a provider of major and comprehensive victim and witness services in Santa Barbara County;

WHEREAS, the District Attorney's Office has the desire and capability to continue providing claims verification and eligibility determination; and

WHEREAS, the State Victim Compensation & Government Claims Board is authorized to contract with local Victim Witness Centers to provide claims verification and eligibility determination for expedited payments of funeral burial expenses, crime scene clean-up and emergency domestic violence and sexual assault relocation expenses, and to make \$50,000 available for this purpose.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors authorizes the District Attorney to enter into agreement with the State Victim Compensation & Government Claims Board to provide expedient financial assistance to victims of crime and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State funds received hereunder shall only be disbursed with strict adherence to State guidelines and regulations.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005, by the following votes:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form  
Auditor-Controller

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form  
County Counsel

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy